

Wildfire Breakthrough

Overview

Wildfire Breakthrough is a nonprofit Public Private Partnership focused on finding innovative new solutions to suppress wildfires when needed.

We plan to launch a global competition for new scientific and technological solutions.

Why Wildfire Breakthrough

In 2016, we started researching the issue of Wildfires. Talking to experts we found:

- Situation is getting worse, acreage burnt, longer fire season.
- The cost of wildfire suppression is escalating.
- This is unsustainable.
- Experts confirmed there have not been major advances in fire suppression technology in many years, whether to put out a fire entirely or manage it.
- There is no concerted effort to find such solutions.

Mission

- Develop a “moonshot” program to generate new wildfire suppression technologies so forest and rangeland fires can be stopped...when needed, and better managed.
- Unite public and private partners and create a process to drive innovation to address a seemingly impossible goal.



Stakeholder Outreach



- US Government
 - USFS, Interior
- CalOES, CalFire, Colo Dept of Public Safety
- Fire and forest communities
 - IAFC, IAFF, National Assn of State Foresters
- Western Governors, Congress, County leaders
- Affected businesses, environmental leaders

Wildfire Breakthrough Leadership



Chair

James Lee Witt, former
Director of FEMA



Science Advisor

J. Keith Gilles, Chair of the
State Board of Fire and
Forestry Protection/UC
Berkeley Dean of College of
Natural Resources



The Power of Convergence

The Cancer Moonshot program brings together science and engineering fields outside of health and private money with health and pharmaceutical fields and public initiatives to spur innovation.



When it comes to wildfire research, major investments and advances have been made in modeling, sensors, UAVs, near-real time satellites, and information systems, but not suppression.

Convergence and Integration



The Power of Global Competitions

Privately- financed, manned space ship Ansari XPRIZE

- A reliable, reusable, privately financed, manned spaceship that launched the private space industry

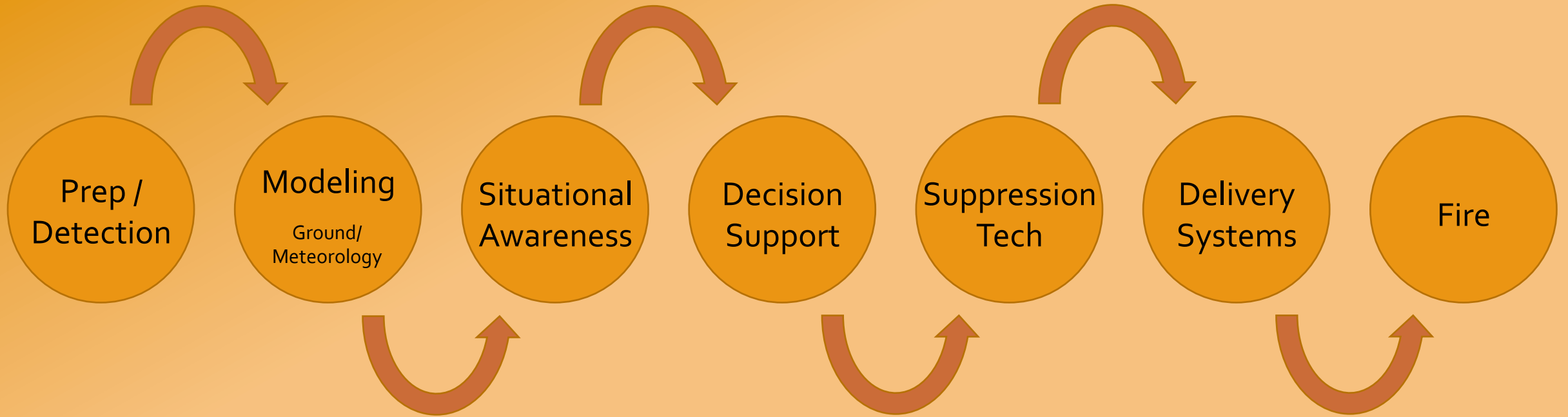


Handheld Diagnostic Device Qualcomm Tricorder XPRIZE

- A portable, wireless device in the palm of your hand that monitors and diagnoses health conditions



A Vision



Status

- In the midst of recruiting expert and public partners
 - USFS, States, Fire Service and Forestry Management Leaders
- Raising funds for initial planning year (\$1.2 mil)
 - Economic stakeholders
 - Philanthropists
 - Public partners
- Planning convenings in multiple communities/states – science, investor, and awareness raising
 - Gov. Brown's office exploring holding a briefing in CA for partners
 - Invited to give short presentation at the Tactical Fire Remote Sensing Advisory Committee in November (TFRSAC)
 - At invitation of CalOES, briefed statewide Fire Service Task Force in December
 - Congressional briefing for public and private stakeholders
 - UC-Berkeley offered to host science convening
- Develop full design of XPRIZE or other global competition
- Opportunity to showcase work
 - Plan to coordinate with PBS program – “America's Forests with Chuck Leavell”

Wildfire Breakthrough and Public Agencies

Our request for assistance

- Public support for our initiative
- Funding
- Contributing to competition design and ideas assessment
- Conducting laboratory tests and field trials